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GEOGRAPHICAL CENTER
OF INDUSTRY

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Sen. Holt Berates Increased Cost of State Government

Charleston.— Senator Rush D. Holt, who will soon probably announce his candidacy for nomination and election, has set State Tax Commissioner Ernest K. James right back in his swivel chair with a blast of facts and figures quoted from James' own reports on the enormously increased cost of state government since 1933.

In a previous letter, Holt had pointed out that state government under Kump and Holt had increased from \$20.41 per capita in 1932 to \$34.90 in 1939. Mr. James denied the charge; questioned Holt's figures; and asserted there has been no increase in cost, when certain "new services" are taken into consideration.

Answering him in a letter just released to the public, Holt says that: "Every one of the figures in my statement can be found in your sworn statement as Tax Commissioner for the fiscal year 1938-39, and in the United States Census Bureau's publications."

Disclaiming any responsibility for the increase, Holt said that while a member of the legislature he "unsuccessfully resisted imposition of additional indirect levies upon the taxpayers," which he considered were "excessive and unfairly distributed." Such responsibility must "lie at the door of those charged with the duty of administering state affairs."

James had argued that after 1933, the state took over certain functions theretofore performed by local bodies, such as building and maintaining secondary roads, and had instituted new services such as relief and unemployment compensation. He quoted figures on public assistance expenditures and work on roads, attempting to leave the erroneous impression that the state now bears all this burden. On this point Holt said:

"You neglect to state that the Federal government has contributed millions of dollars to West Virginia" for ordinary governmental functions. "You want to take credit for the shifting of the burden from the county to the state," he reminded James, "but do not give any credit for the shifting of the state burden to the Federal government."

On the question of cost of the department of public assistance wrote: "You leave the definite impression that the entire burden of public assistance and general relief has been transferred to the state from the counties, whereas the facts show 1939 contributed \$2,333,068.67 for that purpose."

And he adds: "You desire to take credit from the counties but fail to note the shifting of costs to the Federal government."

As for James' contention that "new services" have made for new costs of government, the Senator from Lewis said "You speak of new services such as the unemployment compensation ser-

vice, yet fail to say that the administrative expense of that is borne by the Federal government."

Such reduction as has been made in the property tax, but which has been doubly off-set by the increase in indirect taxes, has been possible because the people themselves demanded it. "We all know," asserts Holt, "that the heavy load lifted from property was done by the people themselves in 1932."

Nor does Holt allow the Kump and Holt administrations any credit for reduction in the total bonded indebtedness of the state and its subdivisions. On the contrary, "no one is deceived as to the real reason for this increase," he writes James. "It is due wholly to the levy limitation amendment adopted in 1932 which makes it impossible for local bodies to issue bonds indiscriminately."

In his analysis of taxes and government costs, James omitted mention of special taxes known as fees and certificates from government conducted business. Holt disagrees with this attitude, insisting that which concerns the taxpayers is the state's total income and its total expense.

"The way to figure the cost of government," he says, "is to total the amount raised by the government. Shifting the burden does not change the total. Placing the tax in indirect levies does not alter the fact of cost. NO omissions or hair-splitting can change the facts. That is not a half-truth, but a complete truth."

"I said the cost of government in West Virginia had increased from 1932 to 1937. If there be a challenge to my statement on this, you are challenging your own figures."

PLANS MADE FOR NEGRO HIGH LITERARY MEET

Plans have been perfected for the third annual junior high school literary contest in the Negro schools. The phases of the contest are the same as those of previous years — oration, humorous reading, and oral interpretation of poetry.

The regional eliminations will be held Tuesday, April 30, with Kimball high school, Welch (Dunbar) junior high school, and Anawalt junior high school entertaining Regions 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Region one consists of Elkhorn, Northfork and Kimball high schools; Region 2 consists of Keystone - Eckman and Welch - Dunbar junior high schools; Region 3, Anawalt Jr., Gary and Excelsior high.

First-prize winners in the regional contests will compete in the finals at Welch-Dunbar Jr. high school, Tuesday, May 7th.

Interest in the contest is very high.

Clinton Grapes Black
Clinton grapes are black, but the skins have a bluish cast, due to wax.



Francis E. Rivers (left) and James M. Yeargin, Assistant District Attorneys on the staff of Thomas E. Dewey, District Attorney of New York County and leading candidate for the Republican nomination for President.

Dr. Johnson of Howard to be W. Va. State June Speaker

President John W. Davis recently announced that Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, President of Howard university will be Commencement speaker at West Virginia State college on June 3rd. Dr. Johnson who served for nine years, 1917 to 1926 as pastor of the First Baptist church of Charleston, is familiarly known to the people of the state. His notable career includes many years of distinguished services in the fields of religion and education. The Baccalaureate address will be delivered by President John W. Davis of the college on Sunday, June 2nd.

The academic atmosphere at State college is beginning to point definitely to the commencement exercises. Already ninety-six seniors have applied for graduation, and according to announcement from the registrar's office the number of applications will exceed the 100 mark within two weeks.

World Outlook

The European picture remains unchanged with very little actual fighting going on on the battlefields and the usual baloney has been steadily broadcast by various and sundry diplomatic officials, who do not expect anyone to believe it judging from the whoopers they have sprung.

In the far east Uncle Sam is

steadily getting the mud deeper and deeper. The Japanese take themselves seriously even if nobody else does and after setting up a puppet government in China and Uncle Sam to "recognize" it, this amused refusal caused the Nipponese hair-pulling.

After the "victory" over the uffin, the red army of Soviet Russia has subsided in activity, only to find out how come the British army, pint-sized and unarmed was able to slash Russian divisions to ribbons when it could get near enough, the fell when the soldiers all over the arctic region.

W. Va. Baptist Youth Meet

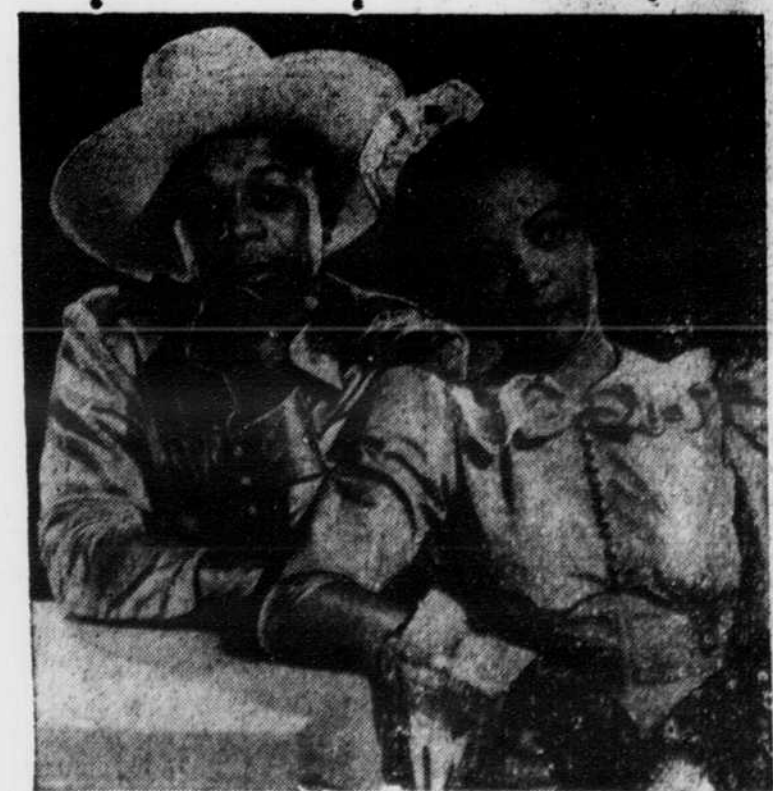
The 13th annual West Virginia Baptist Youth Convention will meet in Charleston at the Baptist temple April 19 to 21.

More than 600 delegates from Baptist churches in every part of the state are expected to attend this convention.

Theme this year will be "Here I Stand."

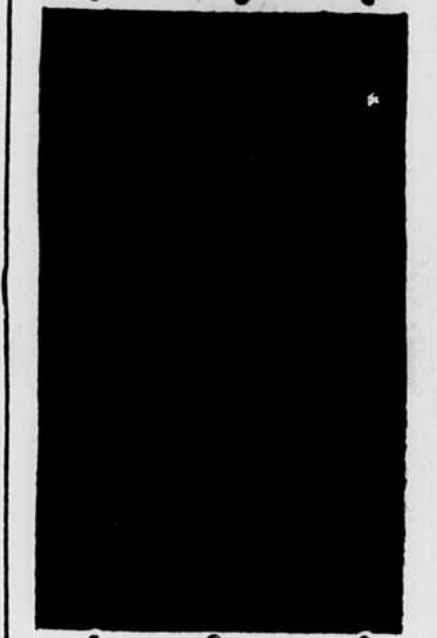
Size of Flathead Lake
Flathead lake, Montana, described as "the largest body of fresh water west of the Great Lakes." All a hollow, thirty-five miles long and eighteen miles wide between two ranges of the Rocky mountains, except where the 4,000-acre Wildhorse island humps its hills out of the water near the west shore.

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Eddie Anderson and Theresa Harris, co-stars in Paramount's new film, "Buck Benny Rides Again" which has made a big hit.

W. C. COOK ANNOUNCES FOR STATE SUPT OF SCHOOLS



Princeton, W. Va., April 11.—William Cassius Cook of Princeton, yesterday announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for state superintendent of schools. Mr. Cook, who served as state superintendent of schools from 1928 to 1932, is the only Republican candidate for state office from the southern portion of W. Va., including the Pocahontas, Tug River, Winding Gulf and New River coalfields.

Mr. Cook stated in his announcement that he stands for the following:

Removal of schools from politics and election of school boards on non partisan tickets.

Independent school boards for cities of more than 100,000 population having control of police and personnel—but which in no way would weaken the standard or financial support of the Rural schools.

The creation of an adequate joint contributing retirement fund for teachers — such as already exists in 27 states of the United States.

Consolidation of schools on a more sensible basis eliminating long walks and long hauls.

Greater emphasis upon Americanism in the curricula of the school system.

Extension of the educational system to insure universal education in West Virginia.

The creation of a joint county and state library fund of 25¢ per pupil.

The Yoke of Socialism

No place on earth needs government - built hydro electric plants LESS than Oregon and Washington. But today, due to the ballyhoo to commouage the socialistic aims of the Federal power program, many persons could gain the impression that nothwest citizens had never enjoyed electric lights.

We used to read about the Chicago racketeers "muscling in" on the territory of competitors, and were aghast at the ruthless methods described. Now we read about a tax-subsidized tax exempt government power plant moving in on a local power company, to the loss of local citizens and tax payers. and nothing is said.

Portland, Oregon, is a good case in point. It has long had the services of three private power companies. But the government's new tax-exempt Bonneville dam on the Columbia river, must have a market for the great surplus power it creates.

The power companies in Portland are ready to use their lines to pass on power from the Bonneville dam to consumers as it is needed, under state regulation.

But that does not satisfy the proponents of socialized power—

Perry Howard Makes Great Speech In Welch on Tuesday

they want the private companies to get out. They would have the Portland citizens go into debt millions of dollars for a PUD—Public Utility District—to get something they have had for years without a debt.

If this socialistic idea of production without profit is good for power, it should be extended to the largest instead of the smallest items of family expense—food, rent, clothing, fuel. Cut out private enterprise; let everyone get a job from the state or city, or federal government and let the politicians be our masters instead of our servants.

Why mince words? Why not call a spade a spade? If you like socialism, fine, vote for it or go and live where it is. If you like independence and opportunity, vote against socialism under whatever camouflage it raises its head.

IS CENSUS BUREAU DISCRIMINATING AGAINST COLORED?

Box 460
Coalwood, West Va.
April 4, 1940

Hon. William Lane Austin,
Director, Bureau of the Census
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Austin:
I, the undersigned, do hereby protest the actions of one Merri-man S. Smith, District Census Supervisor of several southern West Virginia counties, with headquarters in Bluefield, West Virginia.

On the morning of March 28, 1940, I, together with other applicants assembled in the post office building at Bluefield to take tests necessary for census enumerator. During the routine of securing proper blanks, credentials, etc., necessary for registration of applicants Mr. Smith made the following remarks to me, in the presence of several others whose sworn affidavits to that effect can be secured if need be. Quote Mr. Smith: "I intended to tell you colored boys yesterday that it would be useless for you to take the examination, you will not be appointed; the white people may not want to give you the correct census data." (unquote) I told Mr. Smith that we had had colored enumerators in McDowell county before and that they encountered no difficulty such as that he spoke of; but Mr. Smith again pointed out that he believed the white people would not give the correct census data to a colored enumerator. I replied by stating: "Suppose the colored people would not want to give the correct census data to the white enumerator?" At this point Mr. Smith smiled and walked away stating: "Things like that do happen."

Despite Mr. Smith's remark I took the test and all the test it was apparent that the selections had been prematurely made. From all observations and indications the test was made merely a show, a farce, cut and dried affair dedicated to those of one well-defined political and racial ilk.

I cannot believe the actions of one Merri-man S. Smith reflects the policies and ideals of

The Hon. Per W. Howard who was the main speaker at the Emancipation Day gathering in the Welch court house Tuesday spoke to a capacity crowd assembled to celebrate the day.

The meeting was sponsored by the McDowell County Colored Republican organization.

The speaker, who has made several previous trips into this county doing political campaigns, told his audience that the colored people had lost nothing by affiliating with the Republican party.

"Every law placed on the statute books of this country for us was placed there by the Republican party, and every law against us was placed there by the Democratic party," he declared.

He told the colored people that it was a mistake to divide their votes. "We haven't enough votes to divide them," he declared.

The speaker reminded his audience that of the 548,000 employees added to the government payroll by the New Deal less than 300 of these jobs were given to Negroes, and that not one single Negro has been given a Civil Service post.

JUDGE MILLER HERE

Judge Lewis H. Miller Ripley, jurist, was in McDowell county Thursday in the interests of furthering his candidacy for the Republican nomination for governor. An indication that he was successful may be seen in the fact that crowds gathered where he stopped. He was calling on various friends in the county and we gather, was much pleased with the way things are going now. Judge Miller is a most distinguished appearing gentleman and is every bit as competent as he looks. The judge new-comer to the field of politics and needs no introduction to McDowell voters.

Washington Stamp

The new Booker T. Washington stamp is now on sale—have you purchased yours? The new stamp will be one of the most sought after ever issued in a few years, as it is the very first one ever to bear the likeness of a colored man. It is a U.S. postage stamp of 10¢ value (and cost).

Low-Down from Hickory Grove

The very latest is to investigate the SEC. SEC is the Security Exchange Commission.

It is one of the bureaus that was gonna make it safe to invest. And they have done so. They have it so safe and sure that there is nothing left to invest in except a race horse. And I just been reading about Santa Anita, a race track in California, and boy, is money changing hands there!

But betting on a race-horse where you have one chance maybe in a hundred, and you can lose your shirt on either the favorite or a long shot, it is O.K. with the Govt..

for, I lodge protest with you as the Bureau of the Census: there chief of the bureau against the actions of your subordinate Smith whose recent conduct gave reflection of racial prejudice, bias, partiality unfairness and un-American ideals. I would ask that some action be taken to avoid similar occurrences (Signed) Lawrence P. Jones.